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The sixty-fourth volume of the *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie* begins with a monograph (384 pages) of the serpents belonging to the family Boidæ, by J. Zenneck, of Strassburg. He enumerates 69 species, and had as material for his studies over 560 specimens. The article is illustrated by eight plates of details, color patterns, etc.

Under the title "The Karkinokosm, or World of Crustacea," the Rev. Thomas R. B. Stebbing is publishing in *Knowledge* a series of interesting popular articles on Crustacea. The illustrations, selected from various sources, are well reproduced.

BOTANY.

Frank's Agricultural Botany. — Nearly every art and profession gradually gathers to itself a special series of text-books in allied sciences. To those expounding that part of botany most useful to the student of agriculture is now added an English translation of the little manual of Professor Frank of Berlin.¹ While the occasion for such a book may not be obvious at a first glance, its author enjoys a reputation in the field chosen which entitles his work to a place wherever scientific agriculture is taught.

T.

The Wisconsin Survey. — In common with most of the richer states, Wisconsin has at various times provided for the exploration of its natural resources, but for some years no appropriations had been made for the continuation of this important work until about two years ago, when, the matter having been taken in hand by the State Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters,² a legislative appropriation was obtained for the prosecution of a new geological and natural history survey of the state. When it was learned that Professor Birge had been made director, it became evident that the work would be conscientiously and efficiently carried on in such a manner as to supply both scientific and economic results. The recent publication of the first two bulletins of the Survey³ justifies

¹ *A Manual of Agricultural Botany.* From the German of Dr. A. B. Frank. Translated by John W. Patterson. Edinburgh and London, William Blackwood & Sons, 1898. x + 199 pp., 133 illustrations.

² *Trans. Wis. Acad.*, vol. x, p. 595. 1 map.

³ *Wis. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Survey.* Bulletin No. 1 (Economic Series, No. 1). On the Forestry Conditions of Northern Wisconsin. By Filibert Roth. vi +

the hopes entertained, and there is every reason to expect that other bulletins now in hand will be equally useful.

T.

Life Zones and Crop Zones. — Under this title Dr. C. Hart Merriam has recently published an important bulletin from the division of biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. The paper is accompanied by a map, in color, which shows at once the distribution of what are called the boreal, transition, upper austral, lower austral, Gulf strip of lower austral, and tropical zones, and the humid divisions of the austral zones east of the great plains. If, as the author hopes, this and similar reports tend to guide experimental agriculture into rational lines, it will be paid for in saving to the country many times over in a single year.

T.

Bray's Lower Sonoran Flora. — In the *Botanical Gazette* for August, Prof. W. L. Bray publishes an important paper "on the relation of the flora of the lower Sonoran zone in North America to the flora of the arid zones of Chili and Argentine," in which are embodied the results of studies carried out at the suggestion of Professor Engler of Berlin. The general conclusion is reached that for most species the distribution and relationships in the two zones are such as can be accounted for from data that are reasonably well established, while the element which remains rests upon very much the same basis of speculation as the relation of all of the great salt desert regions of the world to each other.

East Indian Iron Woods. — *Bulletin No. 19* of the Koloniaal Museum of Haarlem, issued in July, is devoted to a consideration of the anatomical structure of the iron woods of the Indies, to which is added a list of plants from other parts of the world to which this name is applied. A set of very good cross-section plates adds to the usefulness of the article.

Botanical Notes. — The September number of the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* contains No. 16 of Dr. Small's studies in the botany of the southeastern United States, chiefly occupied with descriptions of new species peculiar to that region; a paper by Professor Porter on the flora of the lower Susquehanna; No. 24 of the

78 pp., with 1 map. — *Bulletin No. 2* (Scientific Series, No. 1). On the Instincts and Habits of the Solitary Wasps. By George W. Peckham and Elizabeth G. Peckham. iv + 245 pp., 14 pls. Madison, 1878.